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INFORMATION REPORT

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Commentary and Summary of Viet Minh Pamphlet
"Chinh Huan" (Political Training)

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[Redacted Box]

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1. The title of the pamphlet "Chinh Huan" is an abbreviation of "Chinh-tri Huan-huyen" which means "political training." It is a Vietnamese correspondence course pamphlet dated 1 December 1948 prepared by the Political Bureau of the Eighth Military Zone in Cochinchina.

2. Can-bo Chinh-tri of the Chinh-tri Vien (Political Agents) are attached to all units of the Ho Chi Minh Government Army from the platoon up.* They are also attached to units of the Tu Ve. The duties of these Can-bo Chinh-tri are modeled on those of the political commissars in the Soviet Army and the political agents of the Chinese Communist Army. They provide the Viet Minh with a tight control over the military forces of Viet Nam. The political agents and not the military commanders are, in effect, the real commanders of the various units. In addition to control and espionage, they exercise other functions, particularly on the lower levels, such as maintaining morale, assisting in relations with the local populations, maintaining liaison with the local civilian authorities, assisting in matters of food and medicine supply. A political can-bo on any level of importance must be a Communist. The pamphlet "Chinh Huan" however, carefully avoids all mention of Communism and contains nothing that would shock the sensibilities of nationalists in the Viet Minh. The pamphlet, which is summarized in the last section of this report, is apparently designed for the instruction of political can-bos at relatively low levels, probably platoon or company levels. It is probable that the political can-bos who take this correspondence course have already had a brief course (personal, not correspondence) in Communism, as well as a general course in the duties of the political can-bo, and that this pamphlet represents a review to be used by the large number of political can-bos attached to the lower echelons.

3. At the level of Dai Doan (a unit with organizational strength of 7,115 men) there is a special staff of 70 officers and men which includes Bureau of Political Can-bos. It is this bureau of the Eighth Military Zone (Km 8) in Cochinchina that issued the pamphlet "Chinh Huan." Two thousand copies of the pamphlet were issued for distribution to the political can-bos at the lower levels. This was a very large number of copies for distribution as the total number of political can-bos in a Dai Doan could scarcely be more than two or three hundred. It therefore appears that the pamphlet was distributed to most of the military officers as well as the political can-bos of the regular army forces and was probably also distributed to the political can-bos and officers of the local Tu Ve units. It may also have been distributed to other

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Document No. 2
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and the Viet Minh military units stationed in nearby zones.

4. It is clear from the size of the edition (2,000 copies) and the harmless nature of the contents, that this pamphlet is not at all of a secret nature. The course outlined in the pamphlet is very simple and has nothing complicated or profound about it. The style and examples are easily understood. The pamphlet contains no reference to Communism. There is a slight reference to the "scientific materialism" of Karl Marx, but it could hardly offend non-Communist nationalists.
5. The pamphlet states that the political can-bos of the lower echelons who take the correspondence course outlined in the pamphlet should not send their papers to the Bureau of Political Can-bos at the Dai Doan level to be corrected but to the Committee of Political Can-bos at the Tieu Doan (organizational strength-178) or Trung Doan (organizational strength-676) level. This suggests a rapidity of liaison which is undoubtedly useful for more important activities of the political can-bos, a more rapid liaison system than is usually available to military officers themselves.
6. The pamphlet "Chinh Huan" is typical of the policy of "compromise" used by the Viet Minh. An outward compromise by which the Viet Minh seeks to maintain the adherence of all nationalists, including the non-Communists.
7. Outline of the contents of the pamphlet "Chinh Huan":
 - Page 1-3: Introduction addressed to the students: approach should be from the military as well as the political point of view.

Those who wish to correspond concerning the lessons should send their letters to the following address: Course in "Chinh Huan," P.O.T., Km 8.44

Page 4-24: The Political Agent

1. Definition

2. Conditions:

- a. To be conscious of being a citizen of an oppressed people (before the resistance).
- b. To be faithful and ardent in resistance.
- c. To achieve agreement it is necessary to put oneself in the place of those who listen to you; to first agree with them, then to explain to them, finally to convince them.
- d. To be adaptable but shrewd. To be supple does not mean to agree with everyone but rather to adapt oneself.
- e. To have a popular personality: be close to the people, aid them in their work, make them patriotic. One must attempt to know the feeling of the people toward their government. One must be close to the army. One must not put oneself above the military or abuse power. It is necessary to have their sympathy.

3. Duties of a political agent

- a. To give political and cultural instruction to the soldiers. It is necessary to give them spirit and often to direct them. One should discuss various questions with them often in order to clarify their problems. The grave

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problems which can affect a soldier are: loss of revolutionary spirit; military dictatorship; banditry.

b. To be the friend and mother of the soldiers:

1. Settle their daily problems quickly
2. be concerned with their food and provisions
3. be concerned with medicine and medicinal services
4. be concerned with their clothing problems
5. pay particular attention to physical culture; to understanding hygiene

c. To make the army understand the mode of life of the local population; to bring them together; to work in this manner so the army will not offend the people

d. To be in contact with the administrative bureaus and organisations of the local people

e. To prevent desertions from the Army. One must give the troops courage and elevate Army morale.

Conclusion-Questionnaire-Explanation of difficult words

Page 15-23 First Lesson--Revolutionary Theory

1. Definition

2. One must have a realistic spirit, know how to distinguish materialism from idealism.

a. Question: What is spiritual?
What is material?

b. Difference between the materialist and the idealist; common materialism and scientific materialism.

c. Application of the method of materialistic scientific materialism in the Viet Nam Revolution

Explanation of difficult words

Text for the Lecture

Extract from the preface to the book "Scientific Socialism" by Bui Cong Trung

General idea of text

Questionnaire

Page 24-28 Improvement

Personal dignity and the duties of the revolutionary soldier

First Lesson: Personal dignity
Necessity for improvement

Conclusion

Table of contents

Printing--2000 copies.

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